



## Cities, police unions clash as vaccine mandates take effect

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**  
and **JOHN SEEWER**

**Associated Press**

Police departments around the U.S. that are requiring officers to get vaccinated against COVID-19 are running up against pockets of resistance that some fear could leave law enforcement shorthanded and undermine public safety. Police unions and officers are pushing back by filing lawsuits to block the mandates. In Chicago, the head of the police union called on members to defy the city's Friday deadline for reporting their COVID-19 vaccination status. Seattle's police department sent detectives and non-patrol officers to emergency calls this week because of a shortage of patrol officers that union leaders fear will become worse because of vaccine mandates.

The standoffs are playing out at a time when many police departments already are dealing with surging homicide rates and staff shortages unrelated to the vaccine. Cities and police leaders are now weighing the risk of



This May 13, 2021, file photo shows syringes filled with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at a mobile vaccination site in Miami.

**Associated Press**

losing more officers to resignations, firings or suspensions over their refusal to get vaccinated.

Chicago's mayor on Friday filed a complaint in court

against the leader of the local Fraternal Order of Police, accusing him of "engaging in, supporting and encouraging work stoppage or strike" by saying

the city's more than 12,000 uniformed officers should ignore the order to report their vaccination status.

On Thursday, Mayor Lori Lightfoot said officers

would not be sent home if they showed up to work Friday and refused to provide their information.

**Continued on next page**

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**Continued from Front**

Instead, she said, they would be put on unpaid leave after the weekend, because confirming compliance would take a few days.

Refusing to provide the information, Lightfoot said, would constitute an act of insubordination.

John Catanzara, president of the FOP local in Chicago, said about half of his members have not been vaccinated and called a mandate requiring inoculation "absolutely wrong."

"They were willing to go into a no-pay status at midnight tonight and get sent home," he said, suggesting during an appearance on Fox News that the city could not afford to lose police officers.

"You know, the reality is we have a profession nobody else wants to do right now. They cannot get anybody to go into this police academy," he said.

In Los Angeles County, Sheriff Alex Villanueva said he won't force his 18,000 employees to be vaccinated despite a county mandate.

"I don't want to be in a position to lose 5, 10% of my workforce overnight," he said last week.

Hundreds of police offi-



**In this Aug. 10, 2021, file photo, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 President John Catanzara speaks to reporters at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse in Chicago.**

**Associated Press**

cers in San Diego said they would consider quitting instead of complying with a vaccination mandate.

Resistance is bubbling up even though first responders have been hit hard by COVID-19. More than 460 law enforcement officers have died from the virus, according to the Officer Down Memorial Page, which tracks deaths in the line of duty.

Disputes over government and business vaccine requirements have spilled

over into a variety of workplaces, including one of the nation's premier nuclear weapons laboratories and the NBA.

Workers at Los Alamos National Laboratory — the birthplace of the atomic bomb — faced a deadline Friday to get vaccinated or risk being fired. A New Mexico judge denied a last-minute request by dozens of scientists and others to block the mandate.

In the NBA, the Brooklyn Nets are not allowing star

Kyrie Irving to practice or play until he is vaccinated. The number of Americans getting vaccines has steadily increased over the past three months as boosters have become available and mandates have taken effect. The number of shots administered per day has topped 840,000 on average.

No national statistics show the vaccination rate for America's first responders, but individual police and fire departments across

the country have reported figures far below the national rate of 77% for adults who have had at least one dose.

Police departments in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Denver are also among those under vaccine mandates or facing one. New York's mayor has said he is looking at the idea despite opposition from the city's largest police union.

The union representing some 1,000 Seattle police personnel argues that the matter should be the subject of labor negotiations. Union President Mike Solan has suggested that the mandate could worsen staffing shortages, which in turn could risk public safety. The department has lost more than 300 officers in the past year and a half and anticipates another "mass exodus" in the coming weeks, Solan said.

Nearly 300 officers in Seattle had either not turned in paperwork showing they were vaccinated or were seeking an exemption, the mayor's office said earlier this week.

In recent weeks, judges have rejected attempts by a group of Oregon State Police troopers and Denver police officers to block vaccine mandates. □

## Bill Clinton recovering from urological infection, aide says



**In this Jan. 27, 2021, file photo, former President Bill Clinton speaks during funeral services for Henry "Hank" Aaron, at Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta.**

**Associated Press**

**By STEFANIE DAZIO and LOU KESTEN**

**Associated Press**

**ORANGE, Calif. (AP)** — Bill Clinton was said to be recovering from a urological infection Friday, and an aide to the former president said that Clinton was

in an intensive care section of the hospital, though not receiving "ICU care."

The aide, who spoke to reporters at the hospital on the condition his name wasn't used, did not elaborate on the reason Clinton was in the ICU. He said

Clinton had a urological infection that spread to his bloodstream, but is on the mend and never went into septic shock, a potentially life-threatening condition. Clinton was in good spirits and juggling books and watching TV coverage about his hospitalization, the aide said. Hillary Clinton was with him in the hospital, though not his daughter, Chelsea Clinton. There was no immediate word on any timeline for his release.

President Joe Biden said Friday during remarks at a child care center that he's been "exchanging calls" about Clinton and "he seems to be, God willing, doing well." Biden and Clinton spoke by telephone Friday afternoon, said White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre.

"President Biden and Presi-

dent Clinton look forward to seeing each other again soon," Jean-Pierre said in an emailed statement. "President Biden wishes President Clinton a speedy recovery."

Clinton, 75, was admitted to the University of California Irvine Medical Center on Tuesday evening for a non-COVID-19-related infection, Clinton spokesman Angel Ureña said Thursday in a statement.

"He is on the mend, in good spirits and is incredibly thankful to the doctors, nurses, and staff providing him with excellent care," Ureña said.

A second statement from Clinton's spokesman quoted physicians Dr. Alpesh Amin and Dr. Lisa Bardack, who said the former president has been "administered IV antibiotics and flu-

ids."

"After two days of treatment, his white blood cell count is trending down and he is responding to antibiotics well," the doctors said. "The California-based medical team has been in constant communication with the President's New York-based medical team, including his cardiologist. We hope to have him go home soon."

In the years since Clinton left the White House in 2001, the former president has faced health scares. In 2004, he underwent quadruple bypass surgery after experiencing prolonged chest pains and shortness of breath. He returned to the hospital for surgery for a partially collapsed lung in 2005, and in 2010 he had a pair of stents implanted in a coronary artery. □



# Trump's not going away — and neither is investigator Schiff

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Nearly a year out of the White House, Donald Trump continues to circle the Republican Party, commanding attention and influence as he ponders another run for the presidency.

And still circling Trump is Rep. Adam Schiff.

Schiff, the Intelligence Committee chairman who rose to national prominence probing Russian election interference and leading the first Trump impeachment, says there's nothing less than democracy at stake with the former president's continued presence on the national political stage.

As a key member of the House Select Committee on the Jan. 6 Insurrection at the Capitol, the congressman whom Trump mercilessly mocks with derisive nicknames is turning his attention to Trump's role in that deadly riot.

"We want to show the country just how Jan. 6 came about — and not just the mechanics of that day, in terms of the participation of the white nationalist groups ... but rather how this big falsehood about our elections propelled thousands of people to attack their own government," Schiff says in an interview on C-SPAN's Book TV, airing a week from Sunday.

"What did the president know about who was coming to this rally and what did he do when he found out?" Schiff asks. "Why did it go on so long? And so there are a lot of important unanswered questions."

As the committee ramps up its inquiry, it's a familiar role but also a new chapter for Schiff, the federal prosecutor turned congressman whose life's work is now defined in large part by the man he calls a "clear and present danger" to U.S. democracy.

Last winter, Trump was impeached a second time, accused of inciting the riot. But the House prosecutors, much like Schiff in the first trial that was focused



In this July 27, 2021, file photo, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., questions witnesses during the House select committee hearing on the Jan. 6 attack on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

on election interference involving the Trump campaign and Ukraine, failed to win conviction in the Senate.

This time, the California Democrat says the select committee expects to uncover fresh information about Trump's involvement that January day, as he encouraged the mob of his supporters to head to the Capitol and "fight like hell" to reverse his electoral defeat to Joe Biden. Deaths in the riot and its aftermath included Trump supporter Ashli Babbitt, who was shot and killed by police, and several officers who later took their own lives after the most serious attack on the Capitol since the War of 1812.

In a new book with a weighty title, "Midnight in Washington, How We Almost Lost Our Democracy and Still Could," Schiff writes his personal, gripping account of that day: Preparing to don a gas mask in the House chamber, being forced to flee as the mob approached.

Republican colleagues warned him he needed to stay out of sight because

of his recognizable role as a Trump critic. But during the hours that followed, as the House returned to tally Electoral College votes for Biden, Schiff came to see Republican lawmakers, in "suits and ties," as an institutional threat as serious as the rioters who bludgeoned their way into the building in an effort to overturn the election.

The special committee is drilling down not just on Trump, but also potentially Republican Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California and the president's other allies in Congress who perpetuate the claim that the election was somehow rigged or illegitimate — though every state has certified its results as accurate, and dozens of court challenges have gone nowhere.

"I'm trying to convey the fragility of our democracy — something that we always took for granted — but something that in the last four years has been dismantled piece by piece by piece," Schiff said about his book.

He expects the committee to deliver "the definitive report," much as the 9/11

commission produced a comprehensive examination of the 2001 terror attack on the U.S.

Trump scoffs at the committee, refusing to participate. Two prominent GOP lawmakers, Reps. Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Adam Kinzinger of Illinois have essentially been disowned by their party for joining the panel and its probe.

Trump says the Democrats are "drunk on power," and he is urging some of his former staff and administration officials not to comply with subpoenas or other requests for testimony. He's basing that stance on claims of executive privilege even though he no longer holds office. This week, the panel announced it would vote to hold former Trump adviser Steve Bannon in contempt for defying a subpoena.

"The Radical Left Democrats tried the RUSSIA Witch Hunt, they tried the fake impeachments, and now they are trying once again to use Congress to persecute their political opponents," Trump said in a recent statement.

Schiff tweeted this week

the panel is "not messing around" and expects Biden's Department of Justice to prosecute the criminal contempt cases to force compliance.

The goal, Schiff says, is for the committee's end product to be a "historic record as a way of exposing to the American people what went into that tragedy, but also as a way of forming recommendations about how do we move forward as a country, how do we protect our democracy."

With Trump ensconced at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, weighing another White House run and visiting the early voting states to rally big crowds, Washington is waiting and wondering about his next move. Schiff acknowledges that he and other Democrats were ill prepared for Trump's popularity, and still five years on struggle to mount a compelling counter-argument to woo back voters who left the party for Trump. More immediately, Democrats face the prospect of a House Republican takeover in next fall's midterm elections, elevating McCarthy to replace Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

"If Kevin McCarthy were ever to become speaker, essentially Donald Trump would be speaker," Schiff warns.

He and Democratic colleagues have assembled a package of post-Watergate style legislation aimed at shoring up the nation's civic infrastructure and tightening ethics rules for the post-Trump era. But faced with Republican opposition, it is unlikely to pass the Senate.

Schiff positions America's experience alongside a broader "global struggle going on right now between autocracy and democracy. People around the world used to look to us as a beacon. Now they see people climbing on the outside of our Capitol, beating police officers," he said.

"So many of the things that we thought could never happen in this country have already happened." □



# US: States can order COVID shots for younger kids next week

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. health officials are setting the stage for a national COVID-19 vaccination campaign for younger children, inviting state officials to order doses before the shots are authorized.

Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine is currently being given to people as young as 12 in the U.S. In the next three weeks, federal officials plan to discuss making smaller-dose versions available to the nation's 28 million children between the ages of 5 and 11.

To help states and cities prepare, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week sent out a seven-page document with guidance on how to set up expanded vaccination programs.

For example, it notes pharmacies in every state can give COVID-19 shots to children, but it clarifies that only doses prepared and packaged specifically for children are to be used for those under 12.

It doesn't speak to some



In this June 6, 2021 file photo, a youth receives a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in the central Israeli city of Rishon LeZion.

Associated Press

thornier questions, however, such as how much school-based clinics should be relied on or whether kids should be required to get then shots as a condition of school attendance.

Those questions will have to be worked out in each state and city.

The guidance comes as

communities are gearing up for a new phase in the 10-month-old effort to vaccinate as many people as possible against a virus that has killed more than 720,000 in the U.S.

The disease has been most dangerous to older adults, who have higher rates of death and hospitalization

than children. But some kids are at risk for severe illness, and more than 540 U.S. children have died from COVID-19, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Just as important, health officials believe that vaccinating children will reduce virus spread to vulnerable

adults.

Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech are furthest along in researching use of their vaccine in younger children. They say a two-dose vaccine series — one-third as potent as the version giving to people over 12 years old — is safe and effective in 5- to 11-year-olds.

An independent expert panel that advises the Food and Drug Administration is scheduled to publicly debate the evidence at a meeting in late October. If the FDA authorizes the kid-size doses, a different expert panel advising the CDC would take up the matter in early November, and then offer a recommendation to the CDC.

It's not yet clear how many people will get shots for their younger kids right away, said Dr. Marcus Plescia, chief medical officer of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

"We're going to have potentially a very busy, and perhaps modestly chaotic time" initially, he said. □

# Lawyer: 'Preposterous' to blame Afghan man in U.S. war deaths

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The lawyer for an Afghan man awaiting trial in Manhattan federal court on charges that he commanded the Taliban fighters responsible in the killing of three American soldiers said Friday it was "preposterous" to charge his client in deaths that occurred in a war the U.S. started.

Attorney Mark Gombiner spoke at a pretrial hearing after his client, Haji Najibullah, pleaded not guilty to charges in a rewritten indictment released against him last week.

Najibullah was already charged in the 2008 gunpoint kidnapping of a reporter for The New York Times and another journalist. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

But the new indictment accused him of commanding the Taliban fighters respon-



In this July 10, 2008, file photo, friends and family watch a military honor guard carry the casket of Sgt. 1st Class Joseph A. McKay, during a funeral service at Long Island National cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Associated Press

sible for a fatal ambush of the three service members in Afghanistan in 2008.

The attack killed Matthew L. Hilton, of Livonia, Michigan; Joseph A. McKay, of Brooklyn, and Mark Palmateer, of Poughkeepsie, New York. Najibullah was

also charged with playing a role in the downing of a U.S. military helicopter later in the same year.

Gombiner said evidence will show the allegations are not true.

The lawyer said the deaths of American soldiers was

an "immense tragedy."

"Nobody disputes that," Gombiner said.

But he said it "is preposterous" that his client should be held responsible for murder in a U.S. courtroom for the death of "American soldiers fighting in a war commenced by the United States."

U.S. District Judge Katherine Polk Failla interrupted Gombiner, accusing him of having "gone off on a huge P.R. campaign."

She added: "I want you to talk to me and not the press."

The lawyer, however, said prosecutors were to blame for publicizing the charges through a news release "that was circulated around the world." The lawyer noted that he refused to comment when reporters asked him about the new charges.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Denton told the judge

that Gombiner was raising arguments "that have been raised and dismissed before, particularly as it relates to the Taliban."

Najibullah, 45, was extradited to the United States last year to face charges including hostage taking, conspiracy and kidnapping.

The original indictment charged him with orchestrating the abduction of David Rohde, who then worked for The New York Times, and Afghan journalist Tahir Ludin, when they were on their way to interview a Taliban leader.

Both men made a dramatic escape from a Taliban-controlled compound in Pakistan's tribal areas more than seven months after their Nov. 10, 2008, kidnapping. Their driver, Asadullah Mangal, was a third kidnapping victim. He escaped a few weeks after Ludin and Rohde. □



# EU-U.K. talks, fishing threat kick Brexit back into high gear

By **RAF CASERT**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The Brexit brawl kicked into high gear Friday on sticking points over Northern Ireland and French fishing, coming almost a year after a deal on a free trade agreement was supposed to have officially sealed the separation between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

The top Brexit negotiators from both sides entered talks again, with troublesome trade issues in Northern Ireland taking center stage. If they fail to find a common solution, the suspension of the trade deal and even retaliatory measures might be possible between the two. The EU is looking for a deal by Christmas.

"Obviously, there is still quite a big gap. And that's what we've got to work through," U.K. chief negotiator David Frost said as he entered a lunch meeting with his EU counterpart, Maros Sefcovic.

Making matters worse, fish also might be pushed onto the menu, with French fishermen more vocal about blocking ports over what



People buy fish at the market of the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer, northern France, Friday, Oct. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

they see as British duplicity in refusing to grant them all the fishing licenses they want.

While fishing licenses might be easily solved with some goodwill, the standoff over Northern Ireland is different and fundamental.

Northern Ireland is U.K. territory but effectively remained part of the EU's

borderless trading market for goods when the U.K. left the bloc last year, causing practical problems for businesses and institutional wrangling over which side is in charge of what.

The U.K. also is insisting the EU cede final legal oversight by its top court of any disputes on Northern Ireland trade and instead

make them subject to independent arbitration, something the 27-nation bloc is flatly rejecting.

"The governance arrangements as we have them don't work," Frost said. "We need to take the (EU) court out of the system as it is now, and we need to find a better way forward."

Beyond rejecting any

moves on the court, the EU is proposing concessions to the U.K. on how to ease transport and customs between Britain and Northern Ireland.

Under the new rules put in place this year, goods must be checked between Britain and Northern Ireland and meet EU standards. Sefcovic proposed changes that he said could cut checks on food, plants and animals by 80% and paperwork for transport companies in half.

He said some trucks crossing the Irish Sea from Britain into Northern Ireland could see their red tape reduced from 100 forms to just one.

Frost acknowledged that the EU had seized the initiative.

"The EU have definitely made a good effort in pushing beyond where they typically go in these areas, and we're quite encouraged by that, but obviously there is still quite a big gap," he said.

If Sefcovic is putting forward only adaptations to the so-called Northern Ireland Protocol, the U.K. is looking for a full renegotiation. □

# U.S.: Nicaragua's elections 'have lost all credibility'

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua**

**(AP)** — The U.S. State Department said Thursday that next month's presidential elections in Nicaragua "have lost all credibility" because of President Daniel Ortega's arrests of critics and seven potential challengers.

Starting in May, Ortega began arresting almost any public figure who disagreed with him, including people who fought alongside him in the country's 1979 revolution. On Thursday, families of 155 political prisoners said in a statement that their loved ones have been subjected to "mistreatment and torture" in prison.

"We view the regime's latest undemocratic and authoritative authoritarian actions, which have again been driven by a fear of an electoral loss, as the final blow

against Nicaragua's prospects for free and fair elections next month," State Department spokesman Ned Price said in Washington. "That electoral process has lost all credibility."

"It is now a foregone conclusion that Daniel Ortega will ensure that the elections in November are a sham and that he will proclaim himself victorious in the aftermath of those elections," Price said.

The country's main opposition coalitions said last week that Ortega's moves have "ended any vestige of real electoral competition" in the Nov. 7 election in which he is seeking a fourth consecutive term.

Relatives of those imprisoned say they have only been allowed to visit their loved ones twice in four months, and that many have been subjected to

humiliating searches when they seek to enter the jails.

They said the prisoners have been denied the right to see their lawyers, and have been interrogated without their lawyers present. Some have lost weight, and the prisoners are not given sufficient sheets or blankets, nor are relatives allowed to supply them.

Ortega opened his election campaign earlier this month almost unopposed, after he tossed most of his rivals in jail on treason charges. Moreover, about 140,000 Nicaraguans have had to flee their homeland since the government cracked down on widespread protests starting in 2018.

Ortega claims the anti-government protests that erupted in April 2018 were an attempted coup with foreign backing. And he



In this March 21, 2019 file photo, Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega speaks during the inauguration ceremony of a highway overpass in Managua, Nicaragua.

Associated Press

has feuded with Roman Catholic bishops who participated as mediators then in the short-lived first round of dialogue between the government and opposition, after which the government brutally put down

the protests.

At least 325 people died during clashes in 2018 between civilians and government forces in Nicaragua, according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. □



# Russia says it pushed U.S. destroyer from area near its waters

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russia's Defense Ministry said a Russian warship on Friday prevented a U.S. Navy destroyer from what it described as an attempt to intrude into Russia's territorial waters in the Sea of Japan.

The incident came as Russia and China conducted joint naval drills in the area, and follows other dangerously close encounters involving Russian and Western warships.

It appears to reflect Moscow's intention to raise the stakes in deterring the U.S. and its allies from sending their ships on missions near Russian waters, as relations between Russia and the West are at a post Cold War low.

There was no immediate response from Washington. The ministry said that the Russian navy's Admiral Tributs destroyer closely approached the U.S. destroyer USS Chafee to chase it out of the area near Russian waters that was declared off limits to shipping



In this photo taken from video released by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service, the U.S. destroyer USS Chafee is seen from Russian navy's Admiral Tributs destroyer near Russian territorial waters in the Sea of Japan on Friday, Oct. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

due to the gunnery drills there as part of the Russia-China maneuvers.

It said the Russian vessel came close to the U.S. warship after it had ignored repeated warnings to leave the area in the Peter the Great Gulf. The ministry charged that after making "an attempt to cross the Russian sea border," the U.S.

warship changed course when the two ships were just 60 meters (66 yards) away from each other and sped away.

It denounced the U.S. destroyer's maneuvers as a "crude violation" of the international rules on averting ships' collision and a 1972 agreement between Moscow and Washington

on preventing air and naval incidents and summoned the U.S. military attache to protest what it described as its crew's "unprofessional action."

Russia, the U.S. and its NATO allies have frequently accused each other of dangerous and provocative maneuvers at sea and in the air as Russia-West ties

have been hit by Moscow's annexation of Crimea, accusations of Russian interference with elections, hacking attacks and other tensions.

In June, Russia said one of its warships fired warning shots and a warplane dropped bombs in the path of British destroyer Defender to drive it away from Black Sea waters near the Crimean city of Sevastopol. Britain denied that account, insisted its ship wasn't fired upon and said it was sailing in Ukrainian waters.

Like most of the world, Britain recognizes Crimea as part of Ukraine despite the peninsula's 2014 annexation by Russia.

June's incident marked the first time since the Cold War that Moscow acknowledged using live ammunition to deter a NATO warship, underlining the rising threat of military collisions amid Russia-West tensions. In the aftermath of the incident Moscow warned that it is prepared to target intruding warships if they fail to heed warnings. □

# Suicide attack on Shiite mosque in Afghanistan kills 47



People inspect the inside of a mosque following a suicide bombers attack in the city of Kandahar, southwest Afghanistan, Friday, Oct. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

By SAMYA KULLAB and TAMEEM AKHGAR  
Associated Press

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** — Suicide bombers attacked a Shiite mosque packed with worshippers attending Friday prayers in southern Afghanistan, killing at least 47 people and wounding 70, a Taliban official said. It

was the deadliest day since the U.S. military withdrawal. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the carnage at the Fatimiya mosque in Kandahar province. The attack came a week after a bombing claimed by the local Islamic State affiliate killed 46 people at a Shiite mosque

in northern Afghanistan. The sectarian bloodletting has raised fears that IS — an enemy of both the Taliban and the West — is expanding its foothold in Afghanistan.

Hafiz Sayeed, the Taliban's chief for Kandahar's department of culture and information, said 47 people had been killed and at least 70 wounded in the attack.

Murtaza, a worshipper who like many Afghans goes by one name, said he was inside the mosque during the attack and reported four explosions: two outside and two inside. He said Friday prayers at the mosque typically draw hundreds of people.

Another witness, also named Murtaza, was in charge of security at the mosque and said he saw two bombers. He said one detonated explosives outside the gate, and the other was already among

the worshippers inside the mosque.

He said the mosque's security personnel shot another suspected attacker outside.

Video footage showed bodies scattered across bloodstained carpets, with survivors walking around in a daze or crying out in anguish.

The Shiite Assembly of Ahl al-Bayt, a global religious society, condemned the attack in Kandahar, accusing the security forces in Afghanistan of being "incapable" of addressing such assaults.

The Islamic State group, which like Afghanistan's ruling Taliban is made up of Sunni Muslims, views Shiite Muslims as apostates deserving of death.

IS has claimed a number of deadly bombings across the country since the Taliban seized power in August amid the withdrawal of U.S. forces. The group

has also targeted Taliban fighters in smaller attacks.

If the attack was carried out by IS, it would be the first major assault by the extremist group in southern Afghanistan since the U.S. departure enabled the Taliban to consolidate control of the country. Recent attacks in the north, the east and the Afghan capital have cast doubt on the Taliban's ability to counter the threat posed by IS.

Neighboring Pakistan, which has urged world leaders to work with the ruling Taliban, condemned the "despicable attacks on places of worship" in a statement from its foreign ministry.

The Taliban have pledged to restore peace and security after decades of war and have also given the U.S. assurances that they will not allow the country to be used as a base for launching extremist attacks on other countries. □



# Puerto Rico ponders race amid surprising census results

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The number of people in Puerto Rico who identified as "white" in the most recent census plummeted almost 80%, sparking a conversation about identity on an island breaking away from a past where race was not tracked and seldom debated in public. The drastic drop surprised many, and theories abound as the U.S. territory's 3.3 million people begin to reckon with racial identity.

"Puerto Ricans themselves are understanding their whiteness comes with an asterisk," said Yarimar Bonilla, a political anthropologist and director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College in New York. "They know they're not white by U.S. standards, but they're not Black by Puerto Rico standards."

Nearly 50% of those represented in the 2020 census — 1.6 million of 3.29 million — identified with "two races or more," a jump from 3% — or some 122,200 of 3.72 million — who chose that option in the 2010 census. Most of them selected "white and some other race."

Meanwhile, more than 838,000 people identified as "some other race alone," a nearly 190% jump compared with some 289,900 people a decade ago, although Bonilla said Census Bureau officials have yet to release what races they chose. Experts believe people likely wrote "Puerto Rican," "Hispanic" or "Latino," even though federal policy defines those categories as ethnicity, not race.

Among those who changed their response to race was 45-year-old Tamará Texidor, who selected "other" in 2010 and this time opted to identify herself as "Afrodescendent." She said she made the decision after talking to her brother, who was a census worker and told her how people he encountered when he went house to house often had trouble with the question about race.

Texidor began reflecting



In this Sept. 30, 2021 file photo, a wooden Puerto Rican flag is displayed on the dock of the Condado lagoon in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

about her ancestry and wanted to honor it since she descended from slaves on her father's side.

"I'm not going to select 'other,'" she recalled thinking when filling out the census. "I feel I am something."

Experts are still debating what sparked the significant changes in the 2020 census. Some believe several factors are at play, including tweaks in wording and a change in how the Census Bureau processes and codes responses.

Bonilla also thinks a growing awareness of racial identity in Puerto Rico played a part, saying that "extra intense racialization" in the past decade might have contributed. She and other anthropologists argue that change stemmed from anger over what many consider a botched federal response to a U.S. territory struggling to recover from Hurricane Maria and a crippling economic crisis.

"They've finally understood that they're treated like second-class citizens," Bárbara Abadía-Rexach, a sociocultural anthropologist, said of Puerto Ricans.

Another critical change in the 2020 census was that only a little over 228,700 identified solely as Black or African American, a nearly 50% drop compared with more than 461,000 who

did so a decade ago. The decline occurred even as grass-roots organizations in Puerto Rico launched campaigns to urge people to embrace their African heritage and raised awareness about racial disparities, although they said they were encouraged by the increase in the "two or more races" category.

Bonilla noted Puerto Rico currently has no reliable data to determine whether such disparities have occurred during the pandemic, noting that there is no racial data on coronavirus testing, hospitalizations or fatalities.

The island's government also does not collect racial data on populations, including those who are homeless or incarcerated, Abadía-Rexach added.

"The denial of the existence of racism renders invisible, criminalizes and dehumanizes many Black people in Puerto Rico," she said.

The lack of such data could be rooted in Puerto Rico's history. From 1960 to 2000, the island conducted its own census and never asked about race.

"We were supposed to be all mixed and all equal, and race was supposed to be an American thing," Bonilla said.

Some argued at the time that Puerto Rico should be

Rico, that type of data is crucial.

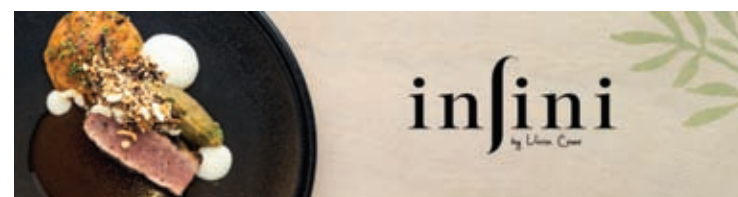
"Skin color is an important marker that makes people vulnerable to more or less racial discrimination," she said.

The data helps people fight for racial justice and determines the allocation of resources, Godreau said.

The major shift in the 2020 census — especially how only 560,592 people identified as white versus more than 2.8 million in 2010 — comes amid a growing interest in racial identity in Puerto Rico, where even recent surveys about race prompted responses ranging from "members of the human race" to "normal" to "I get along with everyone." Informally, people on the island use a wide range of words to describe someone's skin color, including "coffee with milk."

That interest is fueled largely by a younger generation: They have signed up for classes of bomba and plena — centuries-old, percussion-powered musical traditions — as well as workshops on how to make or wear headwraps. □

Associated Press



Taste limitless possibilities at Infiniti, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

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## Aruba to me



**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received an amazing story from **Nancy Kukulinsky Bascom** from Kentucky USA. She wrote:

"Aruba to me is connecting with special friends at the Divi All-Inclusive. We enjoy reading Aruba Today every morning. Thanks!"

## Queen Beatrix Airport "Gateway 2030" Phase 1A in progress

**ORANJESTAD —** On October 13, 2021, the Minister of Tourism Dangui Oduber, paid a visit to the Aruba Airport Authority (AAA) in connection with the progress of phase 1A of the airport expansion project.

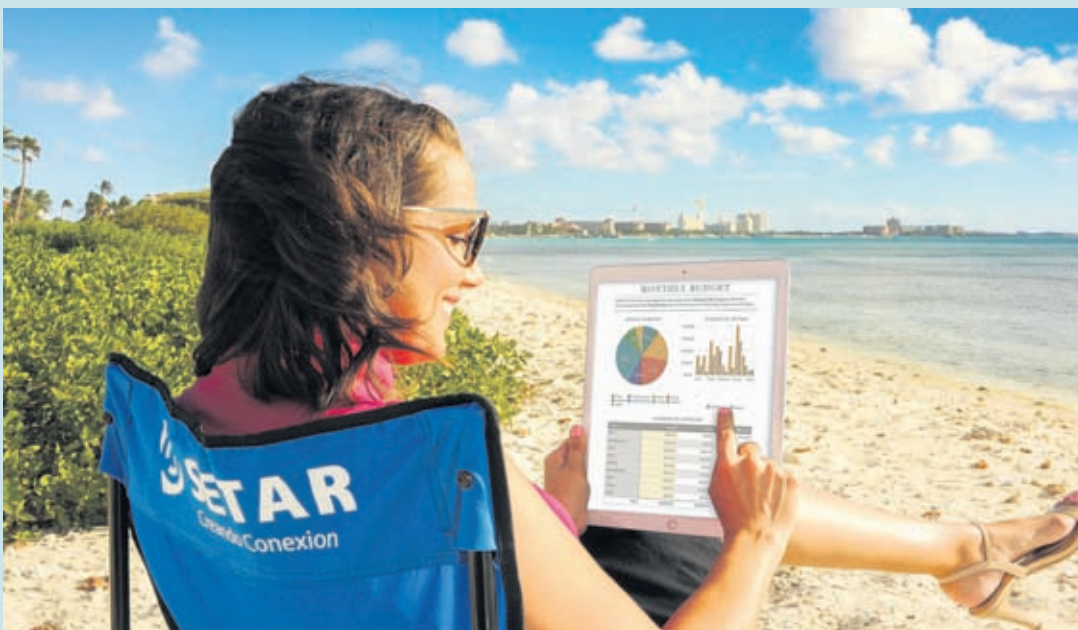
AAA CEO Joost Meijjs escorted the Minister and other project leaders through the expansion sites to see the advancements that have been made so far with the project "Gateway 2030". Gateway 2030 is a project that has a price tag of more than \$140 million and will generate between 200 and 300 direct and indirect employment with AAA. This major project will have a positive economic spin-off effect for Aruba, as it will generate revenue for the Government in the form of taxes. It is a crucial project for the expansion and renovation of our Airport. Local contracting companies carry out the expansion work, and most of the construction materials are acquired locally. Accord-



ing to the plans, phase 1A will be completed in 2024. It also includes the expansion of the US departure hall that will become twice the size of the current one and a new state-of-the-art baggage hall. "This will be one of the best baggage halls in the world, and certainly the best in the Caribbean", minister Oduber stated. The expansion is a costly investment but once completed, the airport will offer a better service and experience to the visitors. Based on the projected growth in tourism, it is necessary to expand as planned. Failing to expand will result in a lack of service to the visi-

tors. Initially, the budget for the Gateway 2030 project was \$250 million before the Covid pandemic. The pandemic changed the entire scope of the project, and now the investment has been reduced to \$140 million. According to the Minister, the project had to be reviewed and split into phases. It is not an easy project to execute as the airport facilities should remain operational at all times. On behalf of the Government of Aruba, the Minister thanked all involved in this project for their effort, commitment, and cooperation.

## Prepaid High-Speed Internet anywhere on the island



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seconds, and apps download at a higher speed, all using your Mi-Fi device.

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Visit SETAR Teleshop with locations around the island or at the airport to check your Mi-Fi SIM or device.



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## Harbour House Aruba officially open! 80 % sold, construction in final phase: Harbour House Aruba is ready for you!

ORANJESTAD — It was the official Grand Opening of Harbour House Aruba last Thursday, June 10th. The residence consisting of 94 units is located in the former Mar Azul building, right in the heart of Oranjestad. The two brothers Irwin J. Perret-Gentil and Alberto Perret-Gentil from PERING, one of the largest, privately-owned Real Estate and construction firms in Venezuela and Aruba, officially opened their new jewel in the presence of the invitees.

Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool with a panorama on the harbour.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a

beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling their studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

### Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the

owner here, also, the organization is amazing. We are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

### Boardwalk

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House building a boardwalk is constructed allowing you to stroll along the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbour of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When



agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 50,000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks.

For more information: <https://harbourhousearuba.com>



## Covid Test Center at Paseo has the best experience period!

**PALM BEACH** - Don't spend a single moment of your long awaited holiday in Aruba thinking about your return testing. The Covid Test Center Aruba located at the Paseo Herencia Mall is your travel ally. Just sit back and relax knowing that, when the time comes, their professional staff will make this process a breeze for you. No need to make an appointment or dread the nasal swab; you'll be done with it in a matter of minutes and back to fun stuff.

Some regions require proof or certification of negative COVID-19 status before allowing people into or out of the country. With rules and guidelines varying greatly from country to country, the safest approach is to have recent proof you are COVID-19 negative before you get to the airport. Covid Test Center @ Paseo provides both PCR and Antigen type testing with results within hours; and both are accepted by the CDC. Covid Test Center @ Paseo is conveniently located at the Paseo Herencia Mall in the heart of the Palm Beach Strip and right across from the Playa Linda and Holiday Inn hotels; only two doors from T.G.I. Friday's. We are open seven days a week, between 9 am and 9 pm. This gives you the



choice to walk in when it better suits you. It can be at the start or at the end of your day. No appointment needed here. The friendly technicians at Covid Test Center @ Paseo

will take your information as we are aware it is imperative that this shows accurately on the results. For a seamless process, please verify that you have provided the correct email to deliver the certificate. Said certificate can be printed at our offices should you wish to do so. We understand that nobody enjoys doing a nasal swab. That is why we take pride in our reputation of being the gentlest swabbers on the island. First, we will not rush you just to go to the next in line. Through clear given instructions we want you to feel comfortable. When you are ready, we will promptly but ten-

derly take a proper sample. Many elsewhere traumatized people praise the difference it makes to test with us. Forget about counting hours before your flight, our turnaround is fast! For travel to the US, for example, a day before will suffice. A great game plan is to test first, then head out for an evening of dining, shopping and entertainment at the Paseo Herencia Mall, home of the water and

lights show in the evenings. By the time you are back at the hotel, your results will be ready in your inbox. A PCR test costs \$75 and results are ready the next day, while Antigen test costs \$35 with same day results. If you are staying at an off-high-rise area property, you can benefit from the free parking our customers receive at the mall lot.). For more information follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. □



## Post Aruba emitted its first stamp for 2021 "Fofoti"



**ORANJESTAD** — On October 14, 2021 Post Aruba N.V. emitted its first stamp for 2021 in a format of souvenir sheet. This stamp emission is named "Fofoti" and was designed by Mr. Armando Goedgedrag.

The Fofoti is a mangle from the genre Combretaceae. This species grows in tropical and subtropical regions around the world. It is green year-round and it grows inland on firm land, yet near salt water. Its English name is "Buttonwood" named after the shape of its fruit, a brown and round button-like shape.

One of the landmark Fofoti trees in Aruba is the one located on the Eagle Beach. It is a scenic location for where most tourists snap a photo at sunset.

The particular shape of this Fofoti mangle is primarily due to the constant trade winds, and provides a stunning landscape on the ocean's front. The Fofoti mangle is found on most locations around the island, however they are seen mostly in the Malmok area, Eagle Beach, Linear Park and Baby Beach. They are also found near most creeks like Rooi Prikichi, Rooi Canashito and

at the Rooi at Sero Cristal.

The Fofoti as well as all other mangroves are protected by law.

This souvenir sheet is available at all the Post Office locations, namely in Oranjestad and San Nicolas.

Make sure that you have this souvenir sheet in your collection as the stock is limited.

For more information on the "Fofoti" issue please visit the Facebook page: Aruba Stamps or Web-page: [postaruba.com/philatelic/](https://postaruba.com/philatelic/). □



# The end of student loan forbearance will be tougher on women

By **ANNA HELHOSKI** of **NerdWallet**

Before the pandemic, wage disparities already made it tougher for working women to pay off student loans than men. Now, after a second year of juggling increased caregiving duties, over a million women have had to drop out of the workforce as a new/old problem looms: the restart of federal student loan payments.

"Not to paint over individual experiences that could have been good or bad (during the pandemic), but there's more concern for women that do have college debt and earn less money," says Kathryn Anne Edwards, an economist at the Rand Corp., a nonprofit global policy think tank.

When the federal student loan payment pause ends after Jan. 31, 2022, repayment will be especially difficult for certain groups of women who saw their earnings plummet, experts say.

## STUDENT DEBT WAS ALREADY A GREATER PROBLEM FOR WOMEN

Although women surpass men in degree attainment, women also have more student debt. A 2021 analysis of federal data by the



In this April 9, 2019, file photo, pedestrians walk on the campus at Stanford University in Stanford, Calif.

American Association of University Women showed women carry an average student loan burden of \$31,276, about 7% more than men.

Once women enter the workplace, they're less able to pay off that debt due to earnings disparities as a result of gender and — for Black and Hispanic women — racial wage gaps, multiple experts say.

"(Borrowers) accrue this

debt, and then a thing like a pandemic appears, exposing issues that are already present," says Dominique Baker, assistant Professor of Education Policy at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

## WOMEN COULD SEE THEIR LIFETIME EARNINGS REDUCED

Say you're a woman in a partnered relationship with a man. You both work, but he earns more

than you. When the pandemic hit, your toddler's day care closed and your elementary school-age child switched to learning from home. The two of you couldn't manage to take care of the kids and keep your jobs. Who can you expect to leave their job first? "We have not made it so people can easily take time off or have more flexible schedules to also be able to care for others,"

Baker says.

"That creates an environment where women have had to slow down or stop their participation in the labor market while trying to care for others."

It could take time for women to make a comeback: Nearly 1.66 million women left the workforce and did not return from February 2020 to August 2021, according to federal Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Leaving the labor force for any period of time can have long-term effects on lifetime earnings, Edwards says. Slower earnings increases could make it more challenging to repay debt.

## WOMEN DIDN'T HAVE TO LOSE THEIR JOBS TO BE AT A DISADVANTAGE

There were also changes in the way women work that could have lasting impact, experts say, including reduced hours, time off for caregiving and switching to more flexible or lower-paying jobs.

Now that employers know more about the details of employees' lives thanks to video calls, Edwards adds, women with children may be perceived to be less committed to the job and could be passed over for promotions. □

Associated Press

# Feds warn companies: Fake online reviews could lead to fines

By **MARCY GORDON**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Federal regulators say they are cracking down on "an explosion" of businesses' use of fake reviews and other misleading messages to promote their products and services on social media.

The Federal Trade Commission said it has warned hundreds of major corporations and smaller businesses that they could face fines if they use bogus endorsements to deceive consumers.

"The rise of social media has blurred the line between authentic content and advertising, leading to an explosion in deceptive endorsements across the marketplace," the FTC said in a news release Wednesday.

The FTC action signals a commitment to flex its authority to use penalties to enforce consumer protection laws. The agency said it has sent formal notices of penalty offenses to about 700 companies, warning they could face penalties of up to \$43,792 for each violation.

"Fake reviews and other forms of deceptive endorsements cheat consumers and undercut honest businesses," said Samuel Levine, who heads the agency's consumer protection bureau. "Advertisers will pay a price if they engage in these deceptive practices."

The companies receiving the notices are a who's who of Corporate America — including major corpora-

tions, big retailers and consumer product companies, as well as leading advertisers and ad agencies.

They include tech giants Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google and its YouTube video service, as well as internet service providers like AT&T and Comcast. Others run from retailer Abercrombie & Fitch and brewer Anheuser-Busch to manufacturers General Electric, General Motors and Honda. Popular shopping and review sites such as eBay and Yelp also are included.

The FTC, however, stressed that a company having received a notice does not suggest that it has engaged in deceptive or unfair conduct.

The notice cites practices



This Jan. 28, 2015, file photo, shows the Federal Trade Commission building in Washington.

Associated Press

the agency found previously to be unfair or deceptive. They include falsely claiming a third-party endorsement, misrepresenting whether an endorser is an actual user or using an endorsement to make

deceptive performance claims. It also listed failing to disclose a significant connection with an endorser and misrepresenting that the endorser's experience represents that of a typical consumer. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Ready for bed
  - 1 Pottery piece
  - 6 Elephant of stories
  - 11 Become narrower
  - 12 Chosen few

- DOWN**
- 1 Basic need
  - 2 Enmity
  - 3 Kitchen coverings
  - 4 Horse halter
  - 5 Severely burdens
  - 6 Track act
  - 7 Imitating
  - 8 Café's cousin
  - 9 Reach
  - 10 Oboe parts
  - 16 Tied the knot
  - 20 Hails
  - 21 Maximum amount
  - 24 1501, in old Rome
  - 25 Caron of "Gigi"
  - 26 Worker at home
  - 27 Blow one's top
  - 28 Preposterous
  - 29 Inclined
  - 30 River vessels
  - 34 Cave sound
  - 36 Danger signal
  - 37 Six-pt. scores

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Yesterday's answer

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39					40				
41					42				

10-16

AXYDLBAAXR  
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

Y K D N P H D Y D S V X P

I D G X B D , Y K D B X S D V X P

T S D T I A D Y X K D T S .

— S P B H

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS IF YOU DANCE. YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS IF YOU DON'T DANCE. SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL DANCE. — GERTRUDE STEIN



In this Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021 file photo, County of Santa Barbara Fire Department firefighters extinguish a roadside fire next to train tracks off of the U.S. 101 highway in Goleta, Calif.

Associated Press

## Q&A: La Nina's back and it's not good for parts of dry West

By SETH BORENSTEIN  
AP Science Writer

For the second straight year, the world heads into a new La Nina weather event. This would tend to dry out parts of an already parched and fiery American West and boost an already busy Atlantic hurricane season.

Just five months after the end of a La Nina that started in September 2020, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced a new cooling of the Pacific is underway.

La Nina's natural cooling of parts of the Pacific is the flip side of a warmer El Nino pattern and sets in motion changes to the world's weather for months and sometimes years. But the changes vary from place to place and aren't certainties, just tendencies.

La Ninas tend to cause more agricultural and drought damage to the United States than El Ninos and neutral conditions, according to a 1999 study. That study found La Ninas in general cause \$2.2 billion to \$6.5 billion in damage to the U.S. agriculture.

**HOW STRONG AND HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?**

There's a 57% chance this will be a moderate La Nina and only 15% that it will be

strong, said Mike Halpert, deputy director of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. He said it is unlikely to be as strong as last year's because the second year of back-to-back La Ninas usually doesn't quite measure up to the first.

This La Nina is expected to stretch through spring, Halpert said.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE WEST?**

For the entire southern one-third of the country and especially the Southwest, a La Nina often means drier and warmer weather. The West has been experiencing a two decade-plus megadrought that's worsened the last couple of years.

But for the Northwest — Washington, Oregon, maybe parts of Idaho and Montana — La Nina means a good chance rain and drought relief, Halpert said. "Good for them, probably not so good for central, southern California," Halpert said.

The Ohio Valley and Northern Plains could be wetter and cooler.

La Nina winters also tend to shift snow storms more northerly in winter while places like the mid-Atlantic often don't get blockbuster snowstorms.

**WHAT ABOUT ATLANTIC**

**HURRICANE SEASON?**

During last year's La Nina, the Atlantic set a record with 30 named storms. This year, without La Nina, the season has still been busier than normal with 20 named storms and only one name left unused on the primary storm name list: Wanda.

The last couple weeks have been quiet but "I expect it to pick up again," Halpert said. "Just because it's quiet now, it doesn't mean we won't still see more storms as we get later into October and even into November."

La Ninas tend to make Atlantic seasons more active because one key ingredient in formation of storms is winds near the top of them. An El Nino triggers more crosswinds that decapitate storms, while a La Nina has fewer crosswinds, allowing storms to develop and grow.

**WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD?**

Much of both southeast Asia and northern Australia are wetter in La Nina — and that's already apparent in Indonesia, Halpert said. Central Africa and southeast China tend to be drier. Expect it to be cooler in western Canada, southern Alaska, Japan, the Korean peninsula, western Africa and southeastern Brazil. □



## Tuberculosis deaths rise for 1st time in years, due to COVID

**LONDON (AP)** — The number of people killed by tuberculosis has risen for the first time in more than a decade, largely because fewer people got tested and treated as resources were diverted to fight the coronavirus pandemic, the World Health Organization said.

In its yearly report on TB released on Thursday, the U.N. health agency said 1.5 million people worldwide died of the bacterial disease last year, a slight rise from the 1.4 million deaths in 2019. Evidence of the ancient disease has been found in Egyptian mummies and it's believed to have killed more people in history than any other infectious illness; TB routinely kills more people every year than AIDS and malaria.

The WHO also said far fewer people were newly diagnosed with TB in 2020; 5.8 million versus 7.1 million in 2019. The agency also estimates that about 4 million people suffer from TB but have yet to be diagnosed, a rise from 2.9 million people the previous year.

The disease is caused by a bacterium that often infects the lungs and is highly transmissible when those sickened by it cough or sneeze. About one quarter of the world's population has a latent TB infection, meaning they carry the bacterium, but haven't become ill and can't transmit it. Those who harbor the bacterium have a 5 to 10% chance of eventually developing TB.

The disease is treatable if caught early, but drug-resistant versions have complicated treatment efforts and scientists are increasingly worried the bacterium will soon outpace available medicines.

The countries with the highest numbers of TB cases include India, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nigeria, Bangladesh and South Africa.

"We cannot accept that year after year, 1.5 million people die from the curable disease TB because



In this March 24, 2018 file photo, a relative adjusts the oxygen mask of a tuberculosis patient at a TB hospital on World Tuberculosis Day in Hyderabad, India.

Associated Press

they do not have access to the diagnostics and drugs that can save their lives," said Stijn Deborggraev, diagnostics adviser for Doctors Without Borders' Access campaign. In a statement, Deborggraev said access to testing was limited in many countries with high numbers of TB patients because they depend on tests made by the American company Cepheid, which he claimed was overcharging poorer countries for their tests. He said Cepheid had re-

ceived more than \$250 million in public investment to develop its TB testing technology and has failed to make it accessible to those who need it most.

The company says they have made their test cartridges available to poorer countries "at low margin" and says they are "an active participant in the global fight against TB."

The WHO noted that global investment into TB efforts had dropped and said global efforts to meet targets in reducing the num-

bers of people affected by the disease "appear increasingly out of reach." □



### Editor

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# 'Dopesick,' an opioid crisis story that needed 'to be told'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Actor Danny Strong pops up regularly in an eclectic batch of series ranging from the lightness of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and "Gilmore Girls" to the dark corruption of "Billions."

But when it comes to investing his time as an Emmy-winning writer and producer, there's consistency in the projects, whether the subject is politics ("Recount," "Game Change") or race ("Lee Daniels' The Butler"). Strong's work is topical and trenchant.

Hulu's "Dopesick" fits the pattern. The eight-part miniseries about America's opioid crisis weaves together the painkiller's devastating toll and the actions of those who aided it or failed to stop it. Three episodes debut Wednesday on the streaming service, with the rest to be released weekly. "I want to work on things that feel important, the stories that need to be told," Strong said. "When done correctly, these kind of stories, the weight of the subject matter and what they're trying to expose, makes them better pieces of entertainment."

While some may equate socially relevant projects with being "good for you, or going to school, I don't view it that way at all," he said in an interview.

Michael Keaton, playing



This image released by Hulu shows Kaitlyn Dever in a scene from "Dopesick," an eight-part miniseries about America's opioid crisis, premiering Wednesday with three episodes.

Associated Press

a family doctor who becomes an unwitting part of the problem, finds a similar sense of fulfillment with "Dopesick" and socially pertinent films in which he's appeared.

"I'm in a fortunate position where what I do for a living affords me an opportunity to possibly change things or affect people in some way," he said during a Q&A with TV critics. "If you're talking about 'Spotlight' or 'Worth' .... or other things that I've done, I'm fortunate in that regard."

Strong spent three years researching and writing or

co-writing all but one episode of "Dopesick," which draws in part on journalist Beth Macy's nonfiction book of the same name. What he learned was eye-opening and ultimately maddening.

"It wasn't until I started diving into the material that I thought, 'This is just an insane, insane story,'" said Strong, also a director and producer of the series. "I was just so outraged by what they had done at Purdue Pharma."

The ensemble cast includes Michael Stuhlbarg as Richard Sackler, depicted as

a mastermind of the expanded use of Purdue's OxyContin, and Peter Sarsgaard and Rosario Dawson as federal adversaries of the Sackler family-owned company.

Drug users are a crucial, heartbreaking part of the drama, including a young Virginia mine worker, Betsy (Kaitlyn Dever), who becomes addicted to opioids after being injured. Her parents (Mare Winningham, Ray McKinnon) are frantic to save her.

Some characters, including Richard Sackler, are based on real individuals, while

others are fictional or composite figures, which Strong said allowed for a more universal story.

Macy, whose 2018 book's full title is "Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America," said her work was "all about what happened on the ground, from the perspective of the victims and the people fighting back."

A dramatization with a comprehensive view of the complex, long-unfolding problem was overdue, said Macy, a series producer.

"It's hard to capture in one article or even one book," she said. The series spans "the last 25 years and puts it in an understandable form: This is what happened to our nation, and this is why it's still part of why we lost 93,000 people last year to overdoses."

That is the estimated number of U.S. drug overdose deaths in 2020 and an increase of 29% from 2019, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Opioid-linked deaths are at a record pace, reaching 70,000 last year. While some opioid deaths over the past two decades have been attributed to OxyContin and other prescription painkillers, most are from illicit forms of opioids such as heroin and illegally made fentanyl. □

## Cher sues heirs of Sonny Bono over song and record revenue



In this Jan. 21, 1966 file photo, Sonny, right, and Cher sing during a taping of "The Danny Thomas Special" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Cher has sued the widow of her

former musical partner and ex-husband Sonny Bono

over royalties for Sonny and Cher songs including "I Got You Babe" and "The Beat Goes On."

In a federal lawsuit filed in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Cher alleges that former Rep. Mary Bono and other defendants have attempted to terminate provisions of business agreements Cher and Sonny Bono reached when they divorced in 1975 that entitled each to 50% of songwriting and recording royalties.

The lawsuit says that Sonny Bono's heirs filed notice in 2016 that they were terminating some of his song licensing agreements, but

they "did not terminate, and could not have terminated" his agreements with Cher.

The breach-of-contract lawsuit alleges that the damages to Cher total at least \$1 million.

Mary Bono's attorney said the family's moves are within their rights and the law.

"The Copyright Act allows Sonny's widow and children to reclaim Sonny's copyrights from publishers, which is what they did," attorney Daniel Schacht said in a statement. "Representative Bono remains open to continuing a private discussion about this, but we are confident that, if nec-

essary, the court will affirm their position."

Cher, the 75-year-old Grammy, Oscar and Emmy winning singer and actor known for solo hits including "Believe" and film roles including "Moonstruck," began performing as a duo with Sonny Bono in 1964. The two later had a TV variety show.

They were married from 1969 to 1975.

Sonny Bono became mayor of Palm Springs and later a California congressman for the area. He died in a skiing accident in Lake Tahoe in 1998, and Mary Bono, his fourth wife, won his seat. □



# Dodgers' Scherzer planned NLCS Game 1 starter against Braves

By **CHARLES ODUM**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Max Scherzer is expected to throw the Los Angeles Dodgers' first pitch in the NL Championship Series only two days after delivering the final pitch in their NL Division Series-clinching win.

Unusual? Yes. And yet no one is surprised.

"That is Scherzer being Scherzer," teammate Cody Bellinger said.

Scherzer is expected to face Braves left-hander Max Fried in Game 1 on Saturday night in an NLCS rematch. The Dodgers beat the Braves in seven games in last year's NLCS before winning the World Series.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said he plans to start Scherzer even after the NL Cy Young Award contender earned his first career save in a 2-1 victory over San Francisco on Thursday night in Game 5 of the NLDS.

Following the game, Robert said he understood "there might be a cost" in using Scherzer in the closing role as the Dodgers faced the quick turnaround before opening the NLCS.

Whatever that cost, the plan is for Scherzer to start the opener.

"That won't surprise me," Braves manager Brian Snitker said Friday before Atlanta's workout at Truist Park.

Snitker said Scherzer's 13-pitch ninth inning was like an off-day session in the



**Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Max Scherzer celebrates after the Dodgers defeated the San Francisco Giants in Game 5 of a baseball National League Division Series Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021, in San Francisco.**

bullpen.

"That's kind of like a side for him right there," Snitker said. "The guy is just a different animal. I mean, he's a Hall of Famer and those guys, man they're cut from a different cloth than normal guys so it won't surprise me at all if he shows up and is on the mound."

Scherzer recorded two strikeouts, including a controversial check swing by Wilmer Flores to end the game. First base umpire Gabe Morales ruled Flores swung, though TV replays indicated Flores held up. Scherzer was 15-4 with a

2.46 ERA for Washington and Los Angeles this season, including 7-0 with a 1.98 ERA in 11 starts for the Dodgers. He has pitched 12 1/3 innings over three appearances in the playoffs, allowing two runs and six hits with 16 strikeouts.

Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman said he was wondering who would pitch the ninth inning for Los Angeles on Thursday night as he watched the game on TV.

"And then they showed Max running up and I said, 'That's the guy,'" Freeman said. "I don't think anybody

else would want anybody else other than Max in that game. He's a bulldog, facing him for years."

Freeman said he never doubted Scherzer would want the ball in the NLCS opener even after the relief appearance.

"He's going to come back, I bet, tomorrow, and pitch against us and he's going to be Max Scherzer," Freeman said.

Roberts planned to confirm his rotation plans with Scherzer after the team's arrival in Atlanta and workout Friday night to "just kind of see where he's at. But as

of now that's kind of where we're at."

Fried moves up as Atlanta's Game 1 starter after Charlie Morton pitched on short rest in the Braves' 5-4 clinching win over Milwaukee in the NL Division Series on Tuesday night.

Fried joins Morton and Ian Anderson to give Snitker a reliable three-man rotation. Snitker plans to have a bullpen game that could include Huascar Ynoa and Drew Smyly.

When the Braves lost to the Dodgers in last year's NLCS, Fried was joined by three rookies — Anderson, Kyle Wright and Bryse Wilson — in the rotation.

Led by Morton, Fried and Anderson, the Braves recorded two shutouts in the division series against Milwaukee. Atlanta limited the Brewers to six runs in four games.

"I feel really good about all three of the guys we're going to be featuring," Snitker said. "I'd say it's a significant difference than a year ago when we started this tournament."

Bellinger hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth and Mookie Betts set a postseason career high with four hits in the decisive win over the Giants.

The Braves are preparing to be without outfielder Jorge Soler in the series as they await his clearance following his positive COVID-19 test. □

Associated Press

## Basilashvili beats Tsitsipas to reach semis at Indian Wells

By **BETH HARRIS**

**AP Sports Writer**

**INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)**

— Nikoloz Basilashvili outlasted No. 2 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 Friday to move into the semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open with the biggest win of his career.

Basilashvili next plays either No. 3 Alexander Zverev or American Taylor Fritz, who met in a later quarterfinal at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

The women's semifinals Friday night featured Victoria Azarenka against

Jelena Ostapenko and Ons Jabeur against Paula Badosa.

Ranked 36th in the world, Basilashvili's previous biggest win came over then-No. 4 Juan Martin del Potro in the final at Beijing in 2018.

The 29-year-old from Georgia beat Tsitsipas for the first time in three tries. Ranked third, Tsitsipas has a leading 54 wins on the ATP Tour this year.

Basilashvili held at love to win the first set before Tsitsipas cruised through the second set.

In the third, Tsitsipas fell behind the baseline chasing a shot in the third game and came up limping. But the Greek shook it off and went on to break Basilashvili and then held for a 3-2 lead.

Basilashvili won three straight games for a 5-3 lead. Tsitsipas served three aces to trail 5-4. Basilashvili pulled out an ace of his own to set up match point and produced another big serve that Tsitsipas couldn't return to close out the match in just over two hours. □



**Nikoloz Basilashvili, of Georgia, returns to Stefanos Tsitsipas, of Greece, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Friday, Oct. 15, 2021, in Indian Wells, Calif.**

Associated Press



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## Weekly SPECIALS



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\$7.99

Per KG

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Brasil



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SAVE  
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SAVE  
\$0.57

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SAVE  
\$0.57

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Each

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\$2.29

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SAVE  
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EE Provolone Sliced Boz

\$3.99

Each



SAVE  
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\$2.03

Each



SAVE  
\$1.14

Peter Pan Creamy Peanut Butter 16.3oz

\$3.97

Each



SAVE  
\$0.57

EE Peanuts Assorted 16oz

\$2.85

Each



SAVE  
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\$13.71

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